THE STAFF RIDE

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PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

General Purpose::

TO FURTHER THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF US ARMY LEADERS

Specific Objectives:

- **Expose students to the dynamics of battle**
- **Show the “face of battle”**
- **Provide case studies in the Principles of War**
- **Provide case studies in Combined Arms Operations**
- **Show the relationship between technology and doctrine**
- **Provide case studies in leadership**
- **Provide case studies in unit cohesion**
- **Show how logistics affect operation**
- **Show effects of terrain upon plans**
- **Provide analytical framework for battle analysis**
- **Encourage the study of US Military History**
- **Kindle interest in US Army Heritage**

FOUNDATIONS OF STAFF RIDING

1. Maximum knowledge by the Instructor Team

2. Maximum knowledge and involvement by the students

3. Complete integration of the Preliminary Study Phase and the Field Study Phase

INSTRUCTOR TEAM REQUIREMENTS

1. **Know the relevant sources**
2. **Understand the organizational, doctrinal, and chronological context**
3. **Understand the operational context**
4. **Know the biographical data on the principals**
5. **Know the orders of battle**
6. **Know the significant movements in chronological order**
7. **Know the significant factors in the outcome of the campaign**
8. **Know the terrain**
9. **Understand current US Army doctrine and terminology**
10. **Know how to interpret the campaign in terms of current doctrine**
11. **Constantly assess student knowledge and interest levels to maintain student involvement**

SITE SELECTION

1. **Experience level of opposing forces**
2. **Echelon of command engaged**
3. **Type of terrain**
4. **Type of units engaged**
5. **Integrity of historical setting**
6. **Availability of sources**
7. **Availability of logistical support**
8. **Nearness to home station**

PHASES OF A STAFF RIDE

1. **Preliminary Study Phase**
2. **Field Study Phase**
3. **Integration Phase**

PRELIMINARY STUDY PHASE

1. Students must understand the purpose of the exercise

2. Students must become actively involved

3. Students must acquire the basic knowledge

    a. Organizations, strength, armament, doctrine

    b. Biographical data on leaders

    c. Weapons characteristics

    d. Terrain and climatic considerations

e. General outline and chronology of events

FIELD STUDY PHASE - DESIGN

1. Visit all significant sites
2. Visit sites in chronological order
3. Avoid backtracking
4. Have purpose for stops
5. Be flexible to permit unplanned stops
6. Link sources to specific sites
7. Traverse route on foot, if possible
8. Ease of access not only consideration
9. Obtain easements
10. Prepare alternate routes

FIELD STUDY PHASE - CONDUCT

1. **Maintain student involvement**
2. **Maintain student orientation**
3. **Use vignettes**
4. **Stimulate student discussion**
5. **Use PA system on the bus**
6. **Use training aids**
7. **Keep the Instructor/Student ratio low**

INTEGRATION PHASE

1. An opportunity to pause and reflect upon the meaning of the exercise

2. Permits integration of perceptions from previous phases

3. Provides an opportunity to crystallize perceptions and organize them

4. Generates additional insights through group

SOURCES

1. **Secondary**
    a. **Most useful at beginning**
    b. **Represent an introduction and framework**
    c. **Often lack in detail and immediacy**
2. **Primary**
    a. **Rich in detail and nuances**
    b. **Provide sense of “how things were”**
    c. **Require student involvement**

TRAINING AIDS

1. Maps
2. Photographs
3. Paintings, drawings, diagrams
4. Films and videotapes
5. Tape recordings
6. Artifacts
7. Terrain boards

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

1. **Critical to success**
2. **Should not distract from educational process**
3. **Must mesh with Field Study Phase**
4. **A complex task**
5. **Transportation**

THE STAFF RIDE

1. **Time and resource intensive**

2. **Broader spectrum of results than TEWT or tour**

3. **Badly done, a waste of soldier's time and taxpayers' money**

4. **Well done, a powerful instrument for professional development of US Army leaders**

AVAILABLE STAFF RIDES

Flagship Rides

Chickamauga, Gettysburg, Sioux Wars, Overland, Vicksburg

Habitual Rides

Bentonville, Chancellorsville, Charleston, Fredericksburg, Manassas I & II, Pea Ridge, Peninsula, Petersburg, Sharpsburg, Spotsylvania, Wilderness, Wilson's Creek, Yorktown

On Demand Rides

Atlanta, Chattanooga, Cowpens, Forts Henry & Donelson, Shiloh, Stone's River, Tippecanoe, Tullahoma

Overseas

Attu, Bulge, Market-Garden, Nancy, Normandy, Verdun

STAFF RIDE MANUALS

Completed and Published

The Staff Ride, Chickamauga, Cowpens, Wilson's Creek

Imminent

Tippecanoe, Vicksburg

Under Construction (at various stages)

Bentonville, Brice's Crossroads, Overland, Pea Ridge